CLAIMS

1. Defective recombinant adenovirus containing, inserted into its genome, a nucleic acid coding for a tumour-specific protein or peptide capable of inducing an immune protection and a destruction of the corresponding tumour cells by the immune system.

2. Defective recombinant adenovirus according to claim 1, characterized in that it contains a nucleic acid coding for a protein or peptide specific to a human tumour.

3. Defective recombinant adenovirus according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the nucleic acid inserted into its genome codes for all or part of an antigen specific to a melanoma.

4. Adenovirus according to claim 3, characterized in that the nucleic acid in question codes for a fragment of an antigen specific to a human melanoma comprising the portion presented to the CTL in combination with MHC-I molecules.

5. Adenovirus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the nucleic acid codes for a protein, or a peptide derived therefrom, selected from the proteins Mage-1, Mage-3, Bage, Rage and Gage.

6. Defective recombinant adenovirus comprising, inserted into its genome, a nucleic acid coding for a peptide of th protein Mage-1 or Mage-3 comprising the portion presented to the CTL.

7. Defective recombinant adenovirus comprising, inserted into its genom , th s quence SEQ ID No. 1.

8. Defective recombinant adenovirus comprising, inserted into its genome, the sequence lying between residues 55 and 82 of the sequence SEQ ID No. 1.

9. Defective recombinant adenovirus comprising, inserted into its genome, the sequence SEQ ID No. 2.

10. Adenovirus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is chosen from the human serotypes Ad2 and Ad5.

11. Adenovirus according to one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that it is chosen from canine serotypes.

12. Adenovirus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it contains a deletion in the E1 region.

13. Adenovirus according to claim 11, characterized in that it contains, in addition, a deletion in the E4 region.

14. Adenovirus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the nucleic acid is inserted into the E1 or E3 or E4 region.

15. Pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one adenovirus according to one of the preceding claims.

16. Use of an adenovirus according to one of claims 1 to 14, for the in vitro or ex vivo production of cytotoxic lymphocytes specific for human tumours.

17. Composition comprising cells infect d with a def ctive r combinant adenovirus according to one of claims 1 to 14.

18. Composition according to claim 17, characterized in that it comprises antigen presenting cells (APC) infected with a defective recombinant adenovirus according to one of claims 1 to 14.

19. Method of preparing cytotoxic T cells specific for a tumour antigen comprising bringing a CTL cell precursor into contact with a population of cells infected with a virus according to one of claims 1 to 14.